

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1081

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CINCPAC HONOLULU

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SUBJ: OCT 6 AND NARC ORDER 22 ARRESTEES

REF: (A) BANGKOK 5118; (B) STATE 81135

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO POLICE ONLY 77 PERSONS ARE STILL DETAINED OF 3,154 PERSONS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH OCT 6 RIOT AT THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CORRECTIONS DEPT (WHICH OPERATES PRISONS) SAID THAT 1,362 PERSONS ARE UNDER DETENTION UNDER NARC ORDER 22. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S FIGURES OF 1,500 "POLITICAL PRISONERS" STILL DETAINED WITHOUT TRIAL AND FIGURE OF 8,000 PERSONS ARRESTED AT TIME OF COUP ARE GROSSLY INFLATED. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED ON APRIL 12 FROM THE THAI NATIONAL POLICE DEPT, ONLY 77 OF THE 3,154 PERSONS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE OCT 6, 1976 RIOT AT THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY ARE STILL BEING DETAINED. WARRANTS ARE OUT FOR THE RE-ARREST OF ANOTHER 33 WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN ALLOWED BAIL OR WERE TEMPORARILY RELEASED BY THE POLICE OR THE COURTS. (NOTE: THIS CORRECTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIGURES IN REF A. CONFUSION APPARENTLY OCCURRED BECAUSE NEWS MEDIA ASSUMED THAT 33 PERSONS SOUGHT FOR ARREST WERE IN ADDITION TO THE 110 PERSONS TO BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL AND NOT INCLUDED WITHIN THAT 110 FIGURE.)

2. ON MARCH 23 THE PROSECUTION DEPT DECIDED TO DISMISS CHARGES AGAINST 36 OF THE 110 PERSONS MENTIONED ABOVE BECAUSE OF IN-

SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE. HOWEVER, THE POLICE HAVE PROTESTED THIS ACTION, AND THE PROSECUTION DEPT IS REVIEWING THESE 36 CASES AGAIN.

3. SUMMARY OF THE DISPOSITION OF ARRESTEES, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE POLICE, IS AS FOLLOWS:

(A) 3,154 PERSONS ARRESTED (INCLUDING 6 STUDENT LEADERS ON CHARGES OF LESE-MAJESTE AND 3 PERSONS ON CHARGES OF BEING DANGEROUS TO SOCIETY)

(B) 2 DIED WHILE UNDER DETENTION (EVIDENTLY NATURAL CAUSES; NO RPT NO BASIS FOR ASSUMING MISTREATMENT)

(C) 2,565 ALLOWED BAIL OR RELEASED TEMPORARILY BY POLICE

(D) 303 ALLOWED BAIL BY COURTS

(E) 207 RELEASED MARCH 2, WHEN POLICE DECIDED TO BRING ONLY 110 TO TRIAL, DROPPING CHARGES AGAINST 3,044 PERSONS.

4. ACCORDING TO THAWI CHUSAP, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE CORRECTIONS DEPT, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, 1,362 PERSONS WERE STILL BEING HELD AS PERSONS DANGEROUS TO SOCIETY UNDER NARC ORDER 22 AS OF MARCH 31, 1977. ON MARCH 12 THAWI TOLD EMBOFF THAT, OF THE SLIGHTLY LESS THAN 2,000 PERSONS STILL BEING HELD AT THAT TIME, ONLY 95 WERE BEING HELD UNDER SECTIONS 5 AND 6 OF ARTICLE 1 OF NARC ORDER 22. THESE ARE THE "POLITICAL" SECTIONS WHICH DEAL WITH THOSE WHO "INSTIGATE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENCOURAGE, USE OR SUPPORT PERSONS WHO CREATE CONFUSION OR UNREST IN THE COUNTRY" AND THOSE "ENGAGING IN ANY ACTIVITIES THAT CAUSE THE PEOPLE TO HAVE FAITH IN OR APPROVE OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS OTHER THAN THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM WITH THE KING AS THE HEAD." THAWI SAID ALL OTHERS BEING HELD ARE COMMON CRIMINALS, SUCH AS VAGRANTS, PROSTITUTES, PIMPS, GAMBLERS, HOARDERS, AND ILLEGAL STRIKERS.

5. AFTER RECEIVING VOCATIONAL TRAINING, THOSE DETAINEES WHO ARE NOT HARD-CORE CRIMINALS OR COMMUNISTS ARE RELEASED AT TWO MONTH INTERVALS. ON JAN 11, 1,310 IN THIS CATEGORY OF ARRESTEES WERE RELEASED; ON MARCH 12, 623 WERE RELEASED. ANOTHER BATCH OF DETAINEES WILL BE RELEASED IN MID-MAY.

6. COMMENT: THE FIGURES, AS GIVEN OUT BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IN REF C, ARE GROSSLY INFLATED. AS MENTIONED ABOVE, OF THE 3,154 PERSONS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE OCT 6 INCIDENT AT THAMMASAT, ONLY 77 ARE STILL UNDER DETENTION AND 33 OTHERS ARE AT LARGE AND BEING SOUGHT BY POLICE. OF THE 3000-4000 PERSONS

ARRESTED UNDER NARC ORDER 22 AS BEING DANGERS TO SOCIETY, 1,362
ARE STILL DETAINED. OF THESE, ONLY 95 CAN BE CALLED POLITICAL
PRISONERS. ONLY IF ONE CHARACTERIZES ALL 1,362 PERSONS AS
POLITICAL PRISONERS CAN ONE ARRIVE AT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S
FIGURE OF 1,500.

7. EMBASSY FIGURES SHOW THAT A TOTAL OF BETWEEN 6000 TO 7000
PERSONS WERE ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE OCT 6 INCIDENT
AT THAMMASAT AND UNDER NARC ORDER 22. IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE
THAT OTHERS MAY HAVE BEEN PICKED UP FOR QUESTIONING BY THE POLICE
BUT WERE RELEASED AND NOT SENT TO THE CORRECTIONS DEPT FOR TRAIN-
ING AND DETENTION. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S FIGURE OF 8,000
SEEMS TO INCLUDE ALL PERSONS ARRESTED, ON WHATEVER GROUNDS,
SINCE OCT 6, 1976. THIS GROSSLY DISTORTS WHAT HAS OCCURRED IN
THAILAND IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS OR SO.
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